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18. The method of claim 13 wherein said gel has a viscosity of between 150 and 800 Pas.

19. The method of claim 13 wherein gel-containing vessel is prepared by the following steps:

- (i) filling an inner container of said vessel with a non-sterile gel;
- (ii) sealing the inner container with an opening valve;
- (iii) sterilizing said vessel and gel; and
- (iv) introducing a pressure medium between the inner container and the outer casing container.

REMARKS

An abstract has been provided for the present application in the amendment above and on a separate sheet.

The Examiner has rejected claim 5 under 35 USC 112 second paragraph. It is the Examiner's view that there is lack of antecedent basis in the claim for the term "an alkylene glycol". The Examiner refers to the term "glycol" in claim 4. Applicants respectfully submit that an alkylene glycol is a subset of "glycol" and that "glycol" provides antecedent basis for all types of glycols, including alkylene glycols. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

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The Examiner has also objected to claim 8 because of the numbering of the first step. In the Preliminary Amendment of July 19, 1999 the large Roman numeral "I" is bracketed within the parenthesis containing "i". Applicants respectfully submit that this should have rectified the numbering issue.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 10, 13 and 14 under 35 USC 102b as being anticipated by Tipton et al. EP560 014 (hereinafter "Tipton"). It is the Examiner's view that Tipton discloses the dispensing of a gel onto a wound using an aerosol vessel. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Tipton does not disclose or suggest dispensing a gel. It is very clear from Tipton (page 2, col. 2, line 54 to page 3, col. 3, line 9) that a liquid is contained within, and dispensed from, the vessel. Tipton discloses a solvent based liquid containing a polymer. This liquid is dispensed onto the desired site and thereafter forms a polymer fibrin via the diffusion/evaporation of the solvent. Dispensing of a liquid from such an aerosol vessel is a relatively straightforward task and is certainly distinct from dispensing a viscous gel. Since Tipton does not disclose dispensing a gel, the 35 USC 102 rejection of claims 1, 10, 13 and 14 should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-9 have been rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Court et al. EP 666 081 (hereinafter "Court") in view of Sperry et al. U.S. 5,059,787 (hereinafter "Sperry"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Court discloses a wound gel, however Court makes no suggestion of dispensing the gel from a barrier aerosol vessel. Sperry discloses the use of an aerosol vessel to deliver a wound cleansing liquid to a wound. Again (like Tipton), the reference teaches the aerosol dispensing of a liquid. This does not suggest to one skilled in the art that a viscous wound gel could also be dispensed using such a vessel. It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of claims 2-9 is not obvious in view of the prior art cited since it is not obvious from, or

suggested by, anything in the references that a viscous wound gel could be delivered in the manner possible for the present claims. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2-9 is requested.

Applicants note that claims 13 and 14 have not been rejected under 35 USC 103 over Court in view of Sperry. Applicants agree with this conclusion. There is nothing in the references to suggest the novel wound care method of claims 13 and 14 since it is not at all obvious that a viscous wound gel could be delivered to a wound by a barrier aerosol device. New claims 15-19 have been added to further define the novel wound care method of claim 13.

Reconsideration, entry of the amendments, withdrawal of the rejections and objections and allowance of all the claims (1-10 and 13-19) are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Signed by James Klein

